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Pennsylvania Line's New Steamer Will Be Launched Today

Philadelphia, July 24.—Pennsylvania Railroad's new passenger and freight steamer "Virginia Lee," designed especially for the company's Chesapeake Bay ferry service between Norfolk and Cape Charles, will be launched this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at the Fore River yard of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation at Quincy, Mass.

Miss Alice Withington Clement, daughter of M. W. Clement, vice-president in charge of operation of the railroad; the mayors of Norfolk and Cape Charles and many prominent railroad officials will witness the launching ceremonies. The steamer is approximately 75 per cent complete, the keel having been laid last February. Following the launching, boilers and engines will be installed, the superstructure completed and the ship generally fitted for active service. It is expected that the vessel will begin operation between Norfolk and Cape Charles early in October.

The "Virginia Lee" will be the largest steamer ever operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad in Chesapeake Bay. Her length is 300 feet and she has a 50-foot beam. Passenger capacity of the steamer will be 1,200 persons and she will be capable of a sustained average speed of 18 miles per hour. An important feature of her construction is the special accommodation for automobile transportation. Fireproof storage space on the lower deck of the steamer will be provided for 46 cars.

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